

HOUSE BILL 1404

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By: **Delegates Gaines, Aumann, Barkley, Barnes, Barve, Beitzel, Branch, Braveboy, Bronrott, Feldman, Frick, Frush, Gutierrez, Healey, Holmes, Huckler, Ivey, Kramer, Lee, Levy, Manno, Mizeur, Niemann, Pena-Melnyk, Ramirez, and Ross**

Introduced and read first time: February 18, 2010

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Transportation – Transit Review and Evaluation**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Transportation to review
4 and evaluate transit priority treatments, best practices, and certain transit
5 thresholds; requiring the Secretary of Transportation to submit a certain report
6 to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; and generally relating to a
7 transit study by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

8 Preamble

9 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland has established a goal of increasing transit
10 ridership by ten percent annually; and

11 WHEREAS, Significant expansions to existing transit infrastructure, such as
12 the Red Line in Baltimore City and the Purple Line and Corridor Cities Transitway in
13 Prince George’s and Montgomery counties, are still years away from completion; and

14 WHEREAS, The most recent economic downturn has strained the resources of
15 the Transportation Trust Fund, creating greater need to use existing transportation
16 infrastructure at the highest and best use; and

17 WHEREAS, The Transportation Planning Board of the Metropolitan
18 Washington Council of Governments has demonstrated the benefits of establishing a
19 network of prioritized transit corridors throughout the metropolitan Washington
20 region; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Increasing the efficiency of public transportation benefits both the
2 users and the entire region by reducing congestion and greenhouse gas emissions;
3 now, therefore,

4 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
5 MARYLAND, That:

6 (a) The Maryland Department of Transportation shall:

7 (1) (i) Review and evaluate the current methodology used by the
8 State Highway Administration to design and implement priority treatments for
9 transit uses, including traffic signal prioritization, use of shoulders for transit
10 vehicles, bus-only lanes, shared bus and bicycle lanes, and queue jumps; and

11 (ii) To the extent practical, in conducting the review and
12 evaluation under item (i) of this paragraph, consider previous studies or reports
13 conducted by the American Public Transportation Association, the National Transit
14 Institute, the Baltimore Metropolitan Council, the Metropolitan Washington Council
15 of Governments, the Maryland Transit Administration, and the Washington
16 Metropolitan Area Transit Authority;

17 (2) Conduct a review of best practices for transit priority treatments
18 across the country and in select cities outside the United States with successful transit
19 priority applications; and

20 (3) Identify, for both current and forecasted travel demands, transit
21 throughput thresholds at which different levels of transit priority treatments are
22 warranted.

23 (b) On or before December 15, 2011, the Secretary of Transportation shall
24 submit a report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
25 Government Article, that includes the studies and analyses required under subsection
26 (a) of this section.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 October 1, 2010.